

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update September 21 - 27, 2011

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 4:30pm

ROADS: Eastern Sierra roads are open including US Hwy 395. Trans Sierra roads are open. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov, for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, visit the web at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads or call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237).

Don't miss the sights - Let someone else drive! **YARTS** (The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System) runs weekends in September from Mammoth Lakes, June Lake & Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley; visit the web at www.yarts.com for a schedule.

SR 203, the road to the **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is open (recreation fee area). Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** (on SR 203) for more information on fees and passes, permits, current recreation updates, trail maps, wilderness conditions and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** travel safety tips. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side, Charcoal Kilns and Mahogany Flat dirt roads are open. The North Saline Valley road is open; 4x4 high clearance vehicles required. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County (4x4 high clearance vehicles required). Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a good backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. For descriptions of backcountry roads, check the website at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit & Things To Do" section) and the Morning Report for current information.

WEATHER: Mostly fair weather with isolated afternoon thunderstorms mid week will persist through Friday over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave. A low pressure system off the southern California Coast is expected to move inland through the weekend, resulting in scattered clouds, cooler temperatures and a chance of isolated showers in the valleys, with snow in the mountains. High pressure is forecast to build early next week, producing clear skies and near normal temperatures. Highs have been in the lower 50s in the mountains, mid 90s in the Owens Valley and over 110 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the 30s in the mountains, to the upper 70s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities with hookups are open throughout the region. The **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds at Crowley Lake, Horton Creek, Goodale Creek and Tuttle Creek are closed for renovations. The Tuttle Creek campground is tentatively scheduled to open mid October.

INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS, Lone Pine to the Nevada state line, campgrounds are open. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE** - use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Please make sure that all food and trash is properly stored. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable; family sites 240 days in advance and group sites 360 days ahead of arrival. Check the website at recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777 for more information.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley, Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) and Crane Flat have sites open reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through recreation.gov; or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Tamarack Flat, Porcupine Flat, Yosemite Creek (weekends only) and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. Tuolumne Meadows closes 9/28 for the season. Call 1-209-372-0200 for recorded information, or visit the web at www.nps.gov/yose.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, open campgrounds include: Texas Springs, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Wildrose (water/no fee/no campfires), Thorndike (no water/no fee/no campfires) and Mahogany Flat (no water/no fee/no campfires). Visit the park website at www.nps.gov/deva for more information. RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort.

Campgrounds are open in the **SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST** on the Kern River and at Lake Isabella on a reservation, or a first-come/first-served basis. For more information, call 1-760-376-3781 or visit the web at www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Fish & Game

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

California - Department of Transportation

National Park Service

Bureau of Land Management

Mono County

USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and its waters are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2011 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting good stores throughout the region. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

HUNTING: General hunting season for Mountain Quail and Blue/Ruffed Grouse is open in the Eastern Sierra. General deer season for the Eastern Sierra is open in zones X-12 (primarily northern Mono County) and X-9a/b (Mono and Inyo Counties along the Sierra Escarpment). Zone X-8 (mostly Alpine County) and X-10 (the Kern Plateau) will open 9/24. Deer season, on the west side of the Sierra Nevada, is open in zones D-6 and D-7 (west and south of Yosemite National Park). Zones D8 and D9 (west and southwest of Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks) will open on 9/24. Archery season for deer in D-17 (primarily San Bernardino County, including the Mojave National Preserve) is open through 9/25. Hunters should keep in mind many people use these areas for other types of sports; it's much safer to avoid hunting near developed sites, roads and trails. Hunting is not permitted in National Parks.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared for sudden weather changes, including snow. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads; vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in major damage. Hikers should be aware hunting season for deer and upland game birds is open for many locations in the Sierra Nevada (except National Parks). In areas open to hunting, it's a good idea to wear brightly colored clothes and stay on the trails.

BEARS (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use portable, bear resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Rush Creek/Mammoth lakes trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Inyo National Forest wilderness areas. Permits may be obtained at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) during office hours. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, please visit the web at www.fs.usda.gov/inyo. Reservations for permits (except Whitney) can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone at 1-760-873-2483, fax to 1-760-873-2484, or by mail - 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA, 93514.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: 17TH KERN RIVER VALLEY - TURKEY VULTURE FESTIVAL: 9/24 at THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE. Celebrate the fall migration of the mighty Turkey Vulture, with a great lineup of activities and field trips on birding and natural history. Visit the Kern River Preserve web site at <http://kern.audubon.org/tvfest.htm> for information.

Mono Basin history comes alive at the **GHOSTS OF THE SAGEBRUSH TOUR**, starts Friday, 9/23 at 6:00pm in the Mono Inn and on Saturday, 9/24 at 10:00am, meeting at the Old Schoolhouse Museum in Lee Vining. For tickets and/or information, call 760-647-6461. Tickets will be available at the event.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

MONO COUNTY MUSEUM in Bridgeport, is open Tuesday - Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, with great exhibits and photos of old mining days and a fine collection of Paiute baskets.

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm through 9/30. A history talk is presented daily. Other interpretive programs are offered; check at the museum for more information. The museum is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Visitors should bring drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

The **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** Visitor Center, located 1 mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open 8:00am to 5:00pm daily for displays, information and a video presentation.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at www.nps.gov/manz for information.

Visit the Beverly & Jim Rogers **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**; with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. The museum opens daily at 10:00am; closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance. The station is located 25 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146.

Visit the **KERN VALLEY MUSEUM** to explore the fascinating history of the Old West through artifacts and memorabilia that make history come alive, in Kernville; open 10:00am to 4:00pm Thursday through Sunday.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER (temporary) at the Furnace Creek Ranch is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:30am to 4:00pm daily.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 9/21/11kcw